

1995 Computer Bowl Questions and Answers

According to the New York Times, how many parking spaces are there in the garage at bill gates' new home?

A: [20]

Q: Security expert Tsutomu Shimomura is a physicist at San Diego's supercomputer center. But he's better known for tracking down an alleged cyberthief . Who was it?

A: [Kevin Mitnick]

Q: If you fly between silicon valley and Boston, you probably know that there are only two non-stop flights each day from boston to san jose and vice versa. They're both American airlines flights. Can you give us either of the two flight numbers ?

A: [flight #129 (Boston to San Jose); flight #128 (San Jose to Boston (true as of April 1995!))]

***** video clip *****

We're at the computer museum to take a look at some famous communications devices. Here's one that was built by a famous personal computer pioneer during the 1970's. It got him into big trouble. Who built it and what is it?

A: [Steve Wozniak's telephone blue box -- an illegal way to make free long distance calls]

Q: According to Microsoft, Adam Baratz was the youngest beta tester for windows 95. How old was he in 1994?

A: [nine years old]

Q: Calculators often use seven-segment displays to show numbers. The number eight, for example, is displayed by lighting all seven segments; the number one requires two segments. Can you name a number that requires exactly the same number of segments to display as its value?

A: [4, 5, or 6 (the number 6 can be displayed with either five or six segments, depending on the brand of calculator)]

Q: In 1994's blockbuster movie, Forest Gump, the title character invests in a computer company. What company does Forrest Gump invest in?

A: [Apple computer co]

***** bonus round *****

Q: This three-part bonus round deals with the latest book titles in today's computing field:

1) Clifford Stoll is the author of "The cuckoo's egg." He also wrote a book that takes aim at the information superhighway. What is it called?

A: ["Silicon Snake Oil"]

2) Who wrote a book about cognitive science called "Fluid concepts and creative analogies"?

A: [Douglas Hofstadter]

3) According to publisher's weekly, what general computing title is the current top seller today (April 1995): "how computers work," the internet

navigator," or "internet yellow pages?"

A: ["Internet yellow pages 2nd edition"]

Q: What does url stand for?

A: [uniform resource locator - (it's the on-line version of a filename)]

Q: What do the initials www stand for on the Internet?

A: [world wide web worm]

Q: Boeing aircraft used four Cray supercomputers in 1995 connection with what sporting event?

A: [the America's cup, for sailing]

Q: Two rival groups battled it out in 1995 to have their optical disk formats adopted as the new standard for movies and other video information on CD. Name at least one company on each side of the issue.

A: [Sony/Philips versus Time Warner/ Toshiba/ Pioneer/ Hitachi/ Matsushita /MCA/ Thompson]

Q: Which of the following did computer pioneer Charles Babbage *not* do: create and direct a ballet featuring a colored light display; 2) run for public office; or 3) kill a man.

A: [kill a man]

Q: What mail order catalog first offered a home computer for sale?

A: [Nieman-Marcus offered a Honeywell h316 in 1969 for \$10,600]

Q: What computer system first used dual computers in active and standby modes for reliability? The Sage, the Univac, or the Whirlwind?

A: [the sage an/fsq-7 computers, operational in 1958.

Q: 'Spamming' means to post the same message to many newsgroups on line. Does the term derive from programmers at the Chicago stockyards, the fact that spam is maps spelled backwards, or a Monty Python sketch?

A: [a Monty Python sketch]

Q: Which of the following did computer pioneer Charles Babbage not do: 1) have himself baked in an oven at 260 degrees; 2) calculate the chances of a man rising from the dead; or 3) fight in a duel.

A: [fight in a duel]

Q: Which of the following is the name of a real computer language: REXX, TEXX, or MEXX?

A: [REXX (it's a procedural language)]

Q: During his finals years at Manchester university, computer pioneer Alan Turing was keenly interested in what topic: morphogenesis; geology; or ultrasonics?

A: [morphogenesis (the study of the formation and differentiation of tissues and organs)]

Q: Of the following, who was not a panelist on the first computer bowl: Mitch Kapor, Adele Goldberg, Bob Frankston, or David Bunnell?

A: [Bob Frankston -- he was in the second bowl]

Q: Who is pictured on the original apple computer logo?

A: [Sir Isaac Newton]

A: [at sound of buzzer]

Q: Gene Amdahl once coined a "computerism" called "fud." According to the new hacker's dictionary, what does "fud" stand for?

A: [fear, uncertainty, and doubt]

Q: In December, 1994, just for fun, the mit museum filled a time capsule with a group of strange computer artifacts. Which of the following was not included: an Internet Barbie doll, an autographed picture of bill gates, or a copy of windows 3.1?

A: [an autographed picture of Bill Gates]

Q: What name of an early personal computer is also the name of a cola drink?

A: [Jolt]

Q: What does html stand for?

A: [hypertext markup language. (used to create world wide web pages on the internet)]

***** video clip *****

[In front of whirlwind computer]

The colorful blinking lights shown here belong to the famous whirlwind computer. It's the classic image of what a mainframe computer should be. What popular CBS TV reporter once "interviewed" this computer, if you will, on the 1950's CBS show "see it now"?

A: [Edward R. Murrow]

Q: Computer companies like to have fun on April fools day. On April 1, 1989, DEC engineers issued a technical paper about what? Getting pickles to light up, using computers as floatation devices, or using a vax minicomputer as a nightlight?

A: [getting pickles to light up]

Q: Computer pioneer George Stibbitz built the world's first binary adder in the 1930's at bell labs. He called it the model 'k'. Was this because he a) built it in his kitchen; b) named it after his pet kangaroo; or c) admired the writings of Franz Kafka ?

A: [he built it in his kitchen]

Q: When Hewlett Packard's computer division exhibits at trade shows, they always play the same tune at the end of the show in their show booth. Do they play "the star spangled banner," "amazing grace," or "stairway to heaven"?

A: [amazing grace]

***** bonus round *****

Q: This bonus round is a potpourri of three unrelated questions.

1. What book by John Updike features a college professor who contemplates writing a computer program to prove the existence of god?

A: ["Roger's Version"]

2. In the 1970 movie, "Colossus, the Forbin project," what Northern California site was used for the filming? The Exploratorium, the Lawrence hall of science, or the San Raphael civic center?

A: [Lawrence hall of science (source levy, p. 196)]

3. In 1960, CBS used an IBM 7090 computer to predict the outcome of the presidential race. Was the computer correct?

A: [no -- it predicted Nixon would win]

Q: What interactive cd-rom from Japan takes you on a train ride through a mysterious world of intrigue?

A: [gadget]

Q: What famous computer personality's email address was printed in the New Yorker in 1994, causing him to be deluged with e-mail?

A: [bill gates]

Q: What unusual computer-related act did Paul Haas of Ypsilanti, Michigan perform on his hot tub and refrigerator?

A: [he connected them to the world wide web. (If there was a sump pump failure, he would count on people around the world to access his www page and send him email if there was a failure -- Time magazine 1/16/95, p. 57)]

Q: According to the optical publishing association, how many individual cd-roms were produced in 1993: 100 million, 200 million, or 300 million?

A: [100 million]

Q: According to "The Mac bathroom Reader" by Owen Linzmayer, apple in the early 1980's considered shortening the name of the Macintosh to simply Mac. What did m-a-c stand for?

A: [mouse-activated computer]

A computerized car named KITT was featured on the "knight rider" tv series. What does KITT stand for?

A: [knight industries two thousand]

Q: IBM begin selling non-IBM built clones in 1992, the Ambra line. Who built these clones? Wearne brothers, Dell, or Hitachi?

A: [Wearne Brothers Ltd. of Singapore. The line was canceled in august, 1994.]

Q: Researchers at Georgia Tech are using virtual reality techniques to treat what disorder? Fear of heights, fear of flying, or fear of enclosed spaces?

A: [fear of heights, using virtual reality displays of bridges and elevators.]

Q: Claiming it to be the most significant advancement in law enforcement since Scotland yard began using fingerprints in 1901, British police have started the world's first computerized database to store what?

A: [DNA records of criminals. (source: BBC)]

Q: What does ALGOL stand for?

A: [algorithmic language]

Q: A cache is a place in your computer's memory where you store frequently used information for quick access. The cache was developed at IBM, but under a different name. Was it called a buffer, a duffer, or a muffer?

A: [a muffer]

Q: Internet host computers around the world often have fanciful names. What class of name is most popular on the net: names of planets, names of three stooges characters, or names of computer pioneers?

A: [Names of planets: Venus, Pluto, etc.]

Q: Where is the world's first transistor located? Palo Alto, CA, Mountain View, CA, Washington, DC, Boston, MA, or Murray Hill, NJ?

A: [Murray hill, NJ (it is on display in the lobby of AT&T Bell Laboratories corporate headquarters)]

Q: In the 1960's DEC unveiled the first pdp-8 computer. If you got the basic model with 4k of core memory, a teletype, and software, would it have cost you about \$18k, \$22k, or \$32k?[\$18,500]

Q: The first email message was sent twenty five years ago between los angeles and what other city: Menlo Park California, Murray Hill, NJ, or Phoenix, Arizona?

A: [Menlo Park, California (source: Boston Globe, 9/11/94, p. A85)]

Q: The man in charge of the project to create IBM's 360 mainframe computer during the 1960's was Fred Brooks. How old was he when IBM put him in charge: 20, 24, or 28 years old?

A: [28 years old]

Q: In the cd-rom game of MYST, what loud mechanical device is located inside the log cabin?

A: [a steam engine]

Q: How many colors are there in the apple logo?

A: [six -- excluding white and black]

Q: Four well-known computer personalities, David Packard, Gordon Moore, Paul Allen, And Mitchell Kapor, pledged a total of over four million dollars in 1995 to a non-profit organization called the SETI institute. What is the purpose of this organization?

A: [to search for extraterrestrial intelligence]

Q: According to a spoof news release in 1994, what famous institution was Microsoft rumored to be purchasing?

A: [the Vatican or the catholic church]

Q: What is the resistor color code for the number three?

A: [orange]

Q: In December, 1994, Bell Atlantic docked the pay of 1000 employees for one and one half day's because they wore t-shirts with a slogan. What did the t-shirts say? A) are we road-kill on the information superhighway?; B) no censorship on the internet; or c) reach out and touch someone on-line?

A: [are we road kill . . .]

***** video clip *****

[in front of tinkertoy computer]

I'm at the museum standing next to a gigantic tinkertoy computer that has over ten thousand parts. It was built by Danny Hillis of thinking machines. What was it built to do?

A: [play tic-tac-toe]

Q: How much did Hewlett Packard pay for Apollo in 1989? \$476m, \$576m, or \$676m?

A: [\$476m]

Q: The economist magazine reported that lee stein opened the first truly electronic bank on the Internet in 1994. Is it called first virtual holdings, the on-line deposit company, or cyberbucks-'r'-us?

A: [first virtual holdings]

Q: According to Dataquest, who shipped the most pc's during 1994: Compaq, apple, Packard bell, or IBM?

A: [compaq, followed by apple, packard bell, and ibm]

Q: What is the library of congress two-letter prefix for books dealing with computer science? Is it "qe," "cs," or "fr."?

A: [qe]

***** bonus round *****

Q: This three-part bonus round deals with computer statistics:

Part 1. For ten points, according to the 1994-1995 computer industry almanac, what was the installed base of mainframe and supercomputers in the world in 1994? 50,000, 500,000, or 5 million?

A: [50,000 -- actually 52,000]

Part 2: what was the installed base of minicomputers in the world? 600,000, 6 million, or 60 million?

A: [6 million]

Part 3: what percent of the world's computers were in the united states in 1994? 43%, 63%, or 83%?

A: [43%]

Q: Of the top ten memory chip makers in 1994, only two were U. S. Companies. One was Texas Instruments who was the other US Company?

A: [Micron Technology]

Q: In what year did digital equipment corporation ship the first PDP-8 minicomputer? 1965, 1966, or 1967?

A: [1965]

Q: The 'Annie' awards are given each year for the best animated commercials. In 1994 the award went for the first time to a computer-generated animated commercial. What company's product was being advertised: Dow Chemical, Nike Shoes, Or Coca Cola?

A: [Coca Cola, for their animated polar bears]

Q: Digital equipment corporation's super-fast new alpha chip was originally code-named "ev4." What does ev4 stand for?

A: ['extended VAX 4' or 'electro vlassic 4']

Q: What law can predict the number of pins a chip will need given the number of transistors it has: Amdahl's second law; grove's rule; Cray's rule, or Rent's rule?[Rent's rule]

Q: Where was Ethernet developed?

A: [Xerox PARC]

Q: What computer-related signs are painted over the entrance and exit doors at the Sunnyvale Fry electronics stores in Silicon Valley?

A: [enter and escape]

Q: Here's a question from computer current's trivia quiz: which of the following is not a cd-rom standard: Red Book, High Sierra, XA, and CD-1.

A: [red book 9 (which is an audio CD format)]

Q: What does ftp stand for?

A: [file transfer protocol]

Q: According to the Scientific American, how much faster will the twenty-first century's protein-based computers be than today's silicon based computers: 1000 times faster, 10,000 times faster, or 100,000 times faster?

A: [1000 times faster]

Q: What is the technical name for someone who runs a web site/
A: [a webmaster]

Q: Before Berkeley systems got into the flying toaster screen saver business, they developed what? Database management systems; software for sight-impaired computer users; or Ethernet interfaces for kitchen equipment?
A: [software for sight-impaired computer users (source: boston globe, 3/17/95, p. 75, article on screen savers)]

Q: Outrigger and Ferengi were codenames for products for what operating system?
A: [OS/2 : they are the code names for OS/2 for windows and Borland c++ for OS/2 1.5]

Q: In postscript, the popular language for laser printers, what is the command to print the current page?
A: ["showpage"]

Q: Awk is a popular UNIX script language. What does "awk" stand for?
A: [either "the author's last names" or, more specifically, Aho, Weinberger, And Kernighan." (source: "the Awk programming language")]

Q: Name the strip of paper you tear off the sides of printer paper
A: ["perf" or "perfor" (source: the new hacker's dictionary)]

Q: What robot won 1994's Sumo robot wrestling competition in San Francisco? was it "The Beast," "Marilyn Monrobot," or "Rambot"?
A: [The Beast]

Q: Who invented the world-wide web: Tim Berners-Lee, Ted Nelson, or Dave Wiener?
A: [Tim Berners-Lee]

Q: Who is the email software package Eudora named after?
A: [author Eudora Welty]

Q: Which of the following was the first magazine to print its email address in each issue: u.s. News and world report, time, or Newsweek?
A: [U.S. News and world report]

Q: A software package called Snipes was one of the first to connect a personal computer to a mainframe computer in a network. It happened in the early 1980's. Who produced this software?
A: [novell]

Q: Here's a switch on a question we used from a past computer bowl. The UNIVAC was the first computer used to predict a presidential election. It predicted Eisenhower would win in 1952. The prediction took place on CBS TV. Two famous broadcasters participated in the program: Walter Cronkite and who else?
A: [Charles Collingwood]

Q: In 1994, scores of computers on the Internet worked together to factor a huge number called RSA 129. The process was lengthy. If all the computers on the Internet had been commandeered, how long would the job have taken: under one day, under one hour, or under one minute?
A: [under one day]

Q: How much RAM did the Apple I single-board computer have?
A: [8K]

Q: Raymond Tomlinson may not be a household name, but he invented something that most computer users know well. Did he invent the @ sign for email addresses, the hole in the middle of cd-roms, or the blinking cursor?

A: [the @ sign in email addresses]

Q: What brand of computer was used to create the special effects for the movies "forrest gump," "the mask," and "the flintstones"?

A: [silicon graphics]

Q: Two software packages under development in 1995 were code named after locations on interstate 57. What were the cities and software packages?

A: [Cairo {pronounced "kay - row"} and Chicago for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0]

***** video clip *****

[next to the giant (7-foot-high) model of a 3-1/2-inch diskette in the walk through computer exhibit]

Q: This is a giant-size version of the common 3-1/2-inch floppy diskette. Actually flexible diskettes were around long before the personal computer. The first flexible diskette was introduced in 1971. Who introduced it?

A: [IBM]

Q: Who said the following "the basic idea of associative indexing . . . Is a provision whereby any item may be caused at will to select immediately and automatically another. . . . Wholly new forms of encyclopedias will appear, ready-made with a mesh of associative trails running through them, ready to be . . . Amplified." Was it Charles Babbage, Alan Turing, or Vannevar Bush?

A: [Vannevar Bush, in the Atlantic Monthly in 1945]

Q: At the first west coast computer faire during the 1970's, apple's co-founder Steve Wozniak played a prank by printing and distributing 20,000 leaflets for a non-existent computer. Did he call it the Zapple, The Zimsai, or The Zaltair?

A: [the Zaltair 150]

Q: What was Intel's code name for the chip designed to succeed the Pentium?

A: [p6]

Q: According to information week, who uses more computers, General Motors, Exxon, or Ford Motor?

A: [General Motors]

Q: According to software magazine, who was the next biggest software vendor after Microsoft (in 1995): Oracle, Computer Associates, Or Novell?

A: [Computer Associates]

Q: Computer Retail Week's top 100 computer retailers list is based on computer product hardware and software revenues. Of the following names, who did *not* make it into the top five for 1994: Radio Shack, Comp USA, Best Buy, Egghead, And Computer City?

A: [Radio Shack]

Q: In February 1996, the computer industry celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of what famous early computer?

A: [the ENIAC]

***** bonus round *****

This bonus round is about code names for software. The questions are courtesy of Michael Hyman, author of the book, "PC Road Kill"

1. Which if the following is not a theme used for code names of OS/2 releases: Mercedes numbers, boat types, or baseball team names?

A: [baseball team names]

2. What was the code name for the Apple III?

A: [Sara]

3. What were Go corporation's codenames for Penpoint?

A: [Amstel and Rolling Rock]

Q: In the movie "True Lies," a copy of Windows 3.1 is running on the computer of the businessman who finances the terrorists. What international edition of windows is it?

A: [Arabic edition]

Q: As of 1995, there was one hotbed of high tech where more computer workstations were produced per employee than anywhere else. Was it Silicon Glen In Scotland, Silicon Mountain in Colorado Springs, or Silicon Prairie in Austin?

A: [Silicon Glen in Scotland]

Q: What does "fqdn" stand for?

A: [fully qualified domain name]

Q: Compuserve magazine reported in 1995 that John Scialli used email to rally people to get an asteroid named after a famous composer. Was it Frank Zappa, Jimi Hendricks, or Janis Joplin?

A: [Frank Zappa]

Q: In 1987 the Acorn computer company introduced the first 32-bit risc processor-based home computer. What was it called: the Socrates, The Plato, or The Archimedes?

A: [The Archimedes]

Q: Who edited the first glossary of computer technology in 1954? Was it Grace Murray Hopper, John Wilkes, or John Mauchly?

A: [Grace Murray Hopper]

Q: RSA, the public key encryption standard, is an acronym for the names of its three authors. What does "RSA" stand for?

A: [Ronald Rivest, Adi Shamir, And Len Adleman]

Q: The precursor to a well-known computer magazines was called the "experimenter's computer system." What magazine is it?

A: [Byte]

Q: What computer book was the first to sell one million copies: "101 Basic Computer Games," "Computer Lib And Dream Machines," or "Soul Of A New Machine"?

A: [101 basic computer games by David Ahl]

Q: The "Stoned" virus was a classic computer virus. When it struck, what message did it display on your computer?

A: [legalize marijuana]

Q: What computer company erected the world's most expensive privately-built building? Intel, IBM, or Compaq?

A: [Intel -- its a billion-dollar semiconductor fabricating plant]

Q: A famous terminal, supplied to telephone subscribers in France, literally put almost the entire country on-line during the 1980s. What is it called?

A: [the Minitel terminal -- Telematique is also acceptable]

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1996 Computer Bowl

VIDEO QUESTIONS (revised 5/3/96 by CM:)

Clip #1: Visitors Explore the Walk-Through, Scene 2: Kids crawl on the Turbo Mouse [actually a trackball]

Q: These young visitors to the Computer Museum's Walk-Through computer are controlling the cursor on a giant screen with an equally giant trackball that really works. My question ties into that trackball. The first use of a trackball in an arcade game occurred in 1978. Was the game called Atari Football, SeaWolf, or Computer Space?

A: Atari Football

[Source, Encyclopedia of Computer Science, 3rd ed., Ralston, p. 288]

Clip #2: Unloading and Installation: Scene 4; Workmen place the keys on the keyboard.

Q: Here's a look at the world's largest keyboard being assembled at the Computer Museum. There are several types of keyboards in use around the world. Most people use the familiar QWERTY keyboard, whose name is the same as the top row of letters on the keyboard. You may also have heard of the Dvorak keyboard. But where would you be most likely to find a "ZWERTY" keyboard? In France, The Netherlands, or Germany?

A: In France

[Source: Prentice-Hall Illustrated Dictionary of Computing, 1992, p.32]

Clip #3: Workmen build components of Giant Upgrade: Scene 2: Workman compares a real Pentium processor with the giant model

Q: Here's a look at the giant microprocessor in the Walk-Through computer, which inspired the following question. The sales of microprocessor chips for use in computers more than doubled last year in just one country. What was that country -- Japan, China, or Singapore?

A: Japan, with a 105% increase, compared to a worldwide growth rate of 36% in 1995.

[Source: Semiconductor Industry Association, quoted at web site <http://shani.net/NewsGuide/news/1996/496/misc/market.htm>]

Clip #4: Visitors Explore the Walk-Through Computer, Scene #4; A ceiling-high Ethernet board.

Q: Here's a giant Ethernet board, one way to connect computers together on the Internet. Speaking of the Internet, according to Investor's Business Daily, what was the average age of users of the Internet's popular Yahoo directory service in 1995: 25, 35, or 45?

A: 35 years old

[Source: Survey of Yahoo users, reported in Investor's Business Daily, 8/22/95]

[Question to accompany film clip of Toy Story:]

Q: Toy Story was the first full-length feature film to be completely generated by computer. Its Director, John Lasseter, won an academy award for a previous computer-generated short film. What was it called?

A: Tin Toy

[Source: <http://www.screenshots.com/trivia.html>]

REGULAR QUESTIONS:

Q: One trendy term on the Internet these days that is actually a Sanskrit word that means "the visible form that the gods take on earth." Is that word "agent," "avatar," or "java?"

A: "avatar"

[Source: NYT, 03/04/96]

Q: What was the internal code name for the Netscape 1.2 Internet browser? Was it Cheddar, Brie, or Provolone?

A: Cheddar

[Source: Los Angeles Times, Friday April 26, 1996, Orange County Edition, Business, Page 7]

Q: Earlier this year Chess Champion Gary Kasparov beat IBM's Deep Blue software in a well-publicized chess match. What was the final score of the match?

A: Kasparov won 3, Deep Blue won 1; 2 draws (Also acceptable is 4-2 in favor of Kasparov)

[Source: <http://www.websong.com/chess/uson/index.html>]

Q: J. C. Penney was the top mail order catalog in the country. But, interestingly, three of the top five catalog companies were computer companies. Dell and Gateway were among them. Who was the other computer mail order company in the top five: DECdirect, Micro Warehouse, or IBM Direct?

A: DECdirect, at the number 4 spot. (IBM Direct and Micro Warehouse were numbers 8 and 10, respectively)

[Source: US News & World Report, 12/18/95, p.61]

Q: How much did IBM pay for Lotus last year, to the nearest ? Billion?

A: \$3.3 Billion

[Source: NPR Weekend edition, 12-30-1995]

Q: In 1995, one hi-tech company had the greatest percent gain of all NASDAQ high-tech stocks. Was it Iomega, Ascend Communications, or C-Cube Microsystems?

A: Iomega, going from \$3-1/2 a share to \$48.63, for a gain of 1396%

[Source: WSJ, 1/2/96, p.R4, and Nightly Business Report, 01-01-1996]

Q: Surprisingly enough, the term "computer" was first used to describe a calculating device over 140 years ago. Was it used to describe Babbage's analytical engine, a circular slide rule, or a Jacquard loom?

A: A circular slide rule - (Specifically, the Fuller model, from the 1850's)

[Source: From Chris Morgan's personal collection]

Q: Whose new portrait is a composite image of 75 women's faces created on a

computer?

A: Betty Crocker

[Source: Barry Weggener of General Mills. He saw the release and Top 10 Questions over Business Wire. Apparently, the Betty Crocker question should refer not to "whose new logo," (which is NOT Betty) but to "whose new

portrait." Also the number of women's faces created on the computer was 75 not

47.-Gail Jennes]

Q: Who said recently (quote) Computers are getting faster and programmers are doing a better job. It is just a matter of time before a computer becomes chess champion. But so what? . . . A computer doesn't think when it plays tic-tac-toe, and it doesn't think when it plays chess. (unquote).

Was it Gary Kasparov, Nicholas Negroponte, or Bill Gates?

A: Bill Gates

[Source; NYT 3/12/96, quoted at

http://www.nytsyn.com/live/Gates/072_031296_130010_9445.html]

Q: What processor chip did the original Radio Shack TRS-80 computer use?

A: The Z-80 (by Zilog)

[Source: Stan Veit's History of Personal Computer]

Q: One of the earliest forms of mechanical information storage was an ancient Peruvian device consisting of a cord with knotted strings of various colors attached, used for recording events, keeping accounts, etc. What was the device called: a quipu, an atahualpa, or a picchu?

A: A quipu

[Source: Random House dictionary]

Q: What is the hi-tech community's nickname for the Willamette Valley Corridor?

A: The Silicon Forest (stretching from Portland to Eugene, Oregon)

[Source: NYT, 6/26/95]

Q: The nerd, according to Funk and Wagnall's Encyclopedia, is "an unstylish, unattractive, or socially inept person, especially one slavishly devoted to intellectual or academic pursuits." They suggest that the name may be inspired by a character in a famous children's book written by what author? Dr. Seuss, Lewis Carroll, or Maurice Sendak?

A: Dr. Seuss

[Source: Funk and Wagnall's CD-ROM Encyclopedia]

Q: A computer industry luminary wants to make sure we keep a complete historical record of the World Wide Web for future generations - that means the successful web sites as well as the failures. They have proposed that a book be written called "The Handbook of Dead Media." Is it Esther Dyson, Nathan Myrhvold, or Mitch Kapor?

A: Nathan Myrhvold

[Source; NYT, 3/11/96]

Q: In Internet URL addresses, what single prefix character is often used to indicate the home directory of the user?

A: The tilde (~)

[Source; Internet World, Apr. 96]

Q: One of the endearing aspects of Macintosh computers is that they will often display a sad Mac face and play ominous chimes when there's a problem with the computer. The Power Macs feature a brand new sound of impending doom. What is it?

A: The sound of a car crashing

[Source: Sad Macs, bombs, and other disasters, by Landau, p. 140]

Q: Where is the "Things That Think" project based?

A: MIT (Specifically, the Media Lab)

[Source: NYT 6/26/95]

Q: Of the following three nations, which has not put a computer on any of its postal stamps: Angola, the Ivory Coast, or Great Britain?

A: Angola

[Source, Ralston, p. cp-12, 3rd ed.]

Q: According to Elsevier's Dictionary of Personal and Office Computing, what's the French word for computer? Is it ordinateur, computeur, or rechenanlage?

A: Ordinateur (or calculateur) [By the way: rechenanlage is one of several German words for computer]

[Source: as noted in question]

Q: What's the Portuguese word for byte?

A : byte

[Source: Elsevier Dictionary]

Q: Programmers have a term for the little surprises they sometimes embed in programs. To activate these inside jokes, you have to press unusual combinations of keys. What is the term for these pleasant little surprises?

A: Easter eggs

[Source: , Jargon, by Robin Williams, Peachpit press, p. 179]

Q: What does the acronym EISA stand for?

A; It refers to the expansion slots and related circuitry in PCs. (Extended Industry Standard Architecture)

[Source, Landau, Jargon, p. 182]

Q: What does JPEG stand for?

A: Joint photographic experts group

Q: George Philbrick was a pioneer in analog computing. During the 1930's, he used feedback amplifier theory to develop what device? Was it the flip flop, the multivibrator, or the operational amplifier?

A: The operational amplifier (Op amp is also an acceptable answer)

[Source: Ralston, op cit, p. 43, 3rd ed.)

Q: How much profit did Apple computer make in its first fiscal year?

\$42,000; \$62,000; or \$100?

A: \$42,000

[Source, Ralston, op cit, p. 69]

Q: What's the slang term for a security device that must be plugged into a computer's serial or parallel port before certain software will operate?

A: A dongle.

[Source: Computer Dictionary, Spencer, p. 113]

Q: What color were the main tents at the Microsoft Windows 95 launch in Redmond last summer?

A: White

[Source: CM attended the event]

Q: 2 times 5 equals 10, as we all know - in decimal, anyway. But what is 2 times 5 in octal?

A: 12

[Source: CM personal knowledge]

Q: According to David Alan Grier, who first used the verb "to program?" Was it John von Neumann, Ada Lovelace, or Grace Murray Hopper?

A: John von Neumann

[Source, Annals of the history of computing, vol. 18, #1, 1996, p. 53]

Q: How many notes are there in Intel's audio signature theme heard in their TV commercials?

A: Four (Five is also acceptable)

[Source: Chris Morgan personal knowledge; also mentioned on alt.folklore.computers newsgroup]

Q: In 1954 George Devol patented something that eventually gave rise to the industrial robot. Did he patent a robot arm, a robot head with electronic eyes, or a robot that could play checkers?

A: A robot arm

[Source, Dodd's The Technology of Information, p. 13]

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Q: The laptop computer is fifteen years old this year. Epson America introduced the first laptop computer in 1981. What was its model number?

A: The HX-20

[Source: Ralston, p. 738, 3rd edition]

Q: Today's cellular phones give computer users wireless access to online services. The first cellular phone service began in Chicago, in what year? 1978, 1981, or 1983?

A: 1983, in October

[Source: Schniederman, Wireless personal communications, P. 17, via Steve Golson]

Bell Labs originally conceived of the idea of the cellular phone. In what year was this: 1947; 1952; or 1958?

A: 1947

[Source: Schniederman, Wireless personal communications, P. 17, via Steve Golson]

Q: What computer luminary once built a kiss-measuring machine, or osculometer? Was it J. Presper Eckert, Steve Jobs, or Charles Babbage?

A: J. Presper Eckert

[Source, Annals of the history of computing, vol. 18, #1, p. 37]

Q: Here's a list from PC Data of the five best-selling CD-ROM titles in all categories for last year. But one title doesn't belong on the list. Which was not in the top five? Myst, Dark Forces, Print Shop Deluxe, Doom II, or Microsoft Encarta?

A: Microsoft Encarta. (It was number 11; the real number five was D!Zone

Collector's Edition

[Source: PC Data via 1996 World Almanac, p. 171]

Q: The Net, Johnny Mnemonic, and Hackers were three 1995 films with computer themes. Can you rank them by ticket receipts, beginning with the biggest money maker?

A: The Net (\$50M); Johnny Mnemonic (\$14M); and Hackers (\$6M)

[Source: "Feed" online magazine at

<http://www.feedmag.com/95.12dauphin/95.12dauphin.html>]

Q: In email shorthand, what does "F2F" stand for?

A: "face to face," or a personal meeting

[Source, 1996 World Almanac, p. 169]

Q: Which of the following is not the name of a real Web site: The House of Sacred Squirrels; The Bureau of Missing Socks; or Wombats Who Speak Esperanto

A: Wombats Who Speak Esperanto

[Source: Bizarre Web site reference]

Q: In what year did Claude Shannon first show that electronic switching circuits can perform logical operations? Was it 1932, 1936, or 1938?

A: 1938

[Source: Dodd's The Technology of Information, p. 13]

Q: In CVAX, the microprocessor chip used in DEC's Micro VAX II, a message appeared inscribed in the uppermost metal layer of the silicon saying "VAX, when you care enough to steal the very best." In what language was it written: Chinese, Russian, or German?

A: Russian (There was a suspicion at the time that the Russians were stealing VAXes)

[Source: Email to comp.arch newsgroup from Bob Supnik, VAX lore expert and vice president of RAD, the parent organization of Digital's research labs, via Steve Golson]

Q: Who said the following: "[In the beginning] DOS to me was worse than the most difficult foreign language, and though I wanted to learn it, I just couldn't hack it... Then I bought an Apple computer. [Today] I am a convert to the computer. It has become a magnificent worldwide communications tool." Was it Martha Stewart, Donald Trump, or Elizabeth Dole?

A: Martha Stewart

[Source: Martha Stewart Living magazine, Nov. 95, p. 140, via Steve Golson]

Q: What was the first airline to let travelers make reservations directly on the Internet? Hawaii Airlines, Southwest airlines, or Alaska Airlines?

A: Alaska airlines

[Source: Boston Globe, 1/23/96, p.34]

Q: A recent poll asked engineers to vote for their favorite movies that have engineers as lead characters, or that have substantial engineering related content. Of the following four movies, which was top-rated by the engineers: Star Trek: Generations; Jurassic Park, The China Syndrome, or Apollo 13?

A: Apollo 13

[Source: sci.engr usenet survey, quoted in EE Times, 11/20/95, p.1]

Q: What company owns the rights to the name "Big Blue" -- IBM, Big Blue Products, or Microsoft?

A: Big Blue Products

[Source: Gregory Aharonian at patents@world.std.com, item 19951205]

Q: In predicting the way things will soon be in the computing world, who recently said: "You turn on your network computer, [the software] shows up. There is no store to go to. There is no installation." Was it Larry Ellison, Bill Gates, or Gil Amilio?

A: Larry Ellison

[Source, BW, 12/4/95, p. 86]

Q: Two letter country codes are used to designate geographical regions on the Internet. The United Kingdom has two acceptable top-level domain names. What are they?

A: UK and GB

[Source: International Standard ISO 3166 Names at <http://www.informatik.uni-halle.de/www/domain.html>]

Q: This is a tough one: What is the two-letter Internet top-level domain name for Antarctica? Is it AQ, AX, or AA?

A: AQ

[Source: International Standard ISO 3166 Names at <http://www.informatik.uni-halle.de/www/domain.html>]

Q: Steve Jobs said recently that the two most exciting things in software today are the Web and - what?

A: Objects

[Source: BusinessWeek, 12/4/95, p. 80]

Q: "Chicago" was the well-known code name for Windows 95. But what Microsoft product was code-named "O'Hare"? Was it Plus, Access, or Microsoft Office?

A: Plus

[Source: Los Angeles Times, Friday April 26, 1996, Orange County Edition, Business, Page 7]

Q: According to the Los Angeles Times which of the following is not a code name for Java-related software currently under development: Espresso, English Breakfast, and Latte?

A: English Breakfast

[Source: Los Angeles Times, Friday April 26, 1996, Orange County Edition, Business, Page 7]

Q: What is the former name of Time Warner Interactive?

A: Atari Games

Q: VRML is a Web protocol for displaying 3-D objects and spaces. Who invented it? Eric Schmidt, Ted Nelson, or Mark Pesce?

A: Mark Pesce

[Source, BW, 12/4/95, p. 83]

Q: Who recently appeared on the cover of Wired magazine and wrote the book "Life on the Screen?"

A: Sherry Turkle

[CM personal knowledge - I have copy of book and magazine]

Q: Modern desktop computers commonly use the PCI bus to let users add

additional hardware devices to their computers. In the PCI local bus, what does PCI stand for?

A: peripheral component interconnect

[Source: Steve Golson]

Q: Besides country suffixes, Internet top level domain names include com, net, org, mil, gov, and edu. There's one other name: is it INT, LTD, or GMB?

A: INT (which stands for international organization)

[Source: ABWAM site; RFC 1591, 3/94 at
<ftp://rs.internic.net/rfc/rfc1591.txt>]

Q: What is the "Y2K" problem?

A: It's the "year 2000 problem," which deals with the effect on computer software when the last two digits in the calendar year turn to "00" in the year 2000.

[Source: IBM web site and Information Week, 22/5/96, p.30]

Q: According to the Boston Globe, what web site made the most money in advertising on the Net during 1995?

A: Netscape, with \$1.2M

[Source; Boston Globe, 1/12/96, p. 75]

Q: What percentage of Pixar did Steve Jobs own when the company went public in 1995? 80%, 90%, or 100%?

A: 80%

[Source, WSJ, 1/2/96, p. R5]

Q: What two companies have announced plans to create a new 24-hour news channel to compete with CNN?

A: Microsoft and NBC/GE

[Source: <http://www.microsoft.com/corpinfo/press/1996/jan96/sprbwlma.htm>]

Q: Last year courts ordered the first-ever legal wiretap of a University computer network to let federal agents track down an attempted break-in to the system. Which network was it?

A: Harvard University. A student in Argentina was apprehended.

[Source: Boston Globe, 3/30/96, p.1]

Q: The phrase "Hi-ho! Yow! I'm surfing Arpanet" is actually an anagram for a well-known hi-tech phrase. Is the phrase "Information Superhighway," "The Internet Yellow Pages," or "Netscape Internet Navigator?"

A: "Information Superhighway"

[Source:

http://www.eff.org/pub/Net_culture/Folklore/Humor/anagrams_for_iway.topten]

Q: According to Philips, the new Digital Video Disk will hold much more data than today's CD-ROM. How much data will a single-layer DVD store, in gigabytes. We'll give you credit if you get within 0.5 gigabytes of the answer.

A: 4.7 gigabytes (Anything from 4.2 to 5.2 gigabytes is acceptable) This is about seven times more data than a CD-ROM.

[Source: <http://www.keymodules.philips.com/DVD/dvd-top.htm>]

Q: Three of last year's top ten largest international semiconductor companies by revenue were american companies. Who were they?:

A: Intel, Motorola, and Texas Instruments

Q: We'd like you to answer the following classic computer riddle: Why did the computer nerd get Halloween mixed up with Christmas?

A: Because OCT 31 = DEC 25 (octal 31 equals decimal 25) (Ouch!)

[Source: alt.folklore.computers]

BONUS ROUNDS:

BONUS ROUND #1:

This three-part bonus round is about emoticons, those colorful shorthand symbols so popular with email writers. As you probably know, the combination of a colon, a hyphen, and a right parenthesis means "happy," because it represents a smiling face turned ninety degrees. Now, according to the 1996 World Almanac, what do the following three emoticons represent:

- 1) a colon, a hyphen, and the letter O
- 2) a left brace followed by an asterisk, then a right brace
- 3) a colon, a hyphen and three periods

A:

- 1) "shouting or surprise
- 2) a hug and a kiss
- 3) drooling

BONUS ROUND #2:

This bonus round is all about the National Geographic Magazine. It's in three parts.

- 1) Last October, the National Geographic magazine pictured Bill Gates sitting on top of something. What was he sitting on?
- 2) In the November, 1970 issue of the National Geographic an article called "Behold the Computer Revolution" pictured several famous computer people. Of the following four people, who didn't make it into the article: H. Ross Perot, Thomas J. Watson, Jr., John Kemeny, or John Mauchly?

- 3) In the same article from 1970, someone is quoted as saying "If computers can match boys and girls for college dates, they can match job-seeking men for man-seeking jobs." Who said it? Richard Nixon, Jimmy Hoffa, or Ted Kennedy?

A:

- 1) A tall stack of paper
 - 2) John Mauchly
 - 3) Richard Nixon
- [Source: National Geographic]

BONUS ROUND#3

This bonus round tests your knowledge of really useless Internet trivia. It's in three parts:

- 1) If you go to the Internet site called "The big red button that doesn't do anything," and you press the big red button, what happens?
- 2) What site was voted the cool site of the year for 1995 by the "Cool Site of the Day" people at Infinet. Was it The Spot, Netscape, or Yahoo?
- 3) According to Time magazine, during the last quarter of 1995, 24 million Americans used the Internet, spending an average of how many hours a week

online? We'll give you credit if you can get within one hour of the answer.

A:

1) Nothing

2) The Spot (A popular soap opera site)

3) Anything from 4-1/2 to 6-1/2 hours is acceptable. The survey answer was 5-1/2 hours]

[Sources: 1) personal knowledge of Chris Morgan (I pressed the button and nothing happened!); 2) Infinet web site; 3) Reason magazine, Winter 95, p.1]

BONUS ROUND #4:

Since this is the fiftieth anniversary year of the ENIAC computer, we're devoting this bonus round to that important computer. Here are your three questions:

1) How many vacuum tubes did the ENIAC computer have: 18,000; 25,000; Or 50,000?

A: 18,000

[Source: Dodd, p.13]

2) Three people intimately associated with the ENIAC were J. Presper Eckert, John Mauchly, and Herman Goldstine. Which one did his doctoral thesis on the topic of carbon monoxide?

A: John Mauchly

[Source, Annals of the history of computing, vol. 18, #1, p. 37]

3) How was the word ENIAC pronounced during the 1940s at the University of Pennsylvania when the machine was being developed there? With a long e (as in "EENIAC"), a short e (as in "EHNIAC"), or with a "u" sound (as in "UHNIAC")?

A: "EHNIAC" with a short e.

[Source: personal conversation between Chris Morgan and two ENIAC pioneers in Philadelphia, February, 1996]

Questions used at 1996 Bowl kick-off party:

Q; What does the PK stand for in PKUNZIP?

A: Phil Katz, the developer of the program (Washington Post, 9/25/95)

Q: There are two competing systems for creating real time audio on the Internet. One is called Real Audio. What is the other one called?

A: True Speech

Q: Two months ago (9/95) William Gaede of Mesa Arizona was arrested and charges with what computer-related crime?

A: He was charged with stealing the engineering plans for the Intel Pentium chip and selling them to rival s and possibly foreign governments (Reuters 9/25/95)

Q: According to the Internet Business Center, how many Web sites -- not pages -- are there on the Internet -- within 50,000?

A: 246,000 sites (Netree; Internet Business Center)

Q: What is the name of the new joint IBM-Lotus Internet version of Lotus Notes, and what was IBM's internal codename for the integrated Internet offerings from the two companies?

A: InterNotes and "Spike."

Q: What is the name of the new book by thriller writer Robert Harris that gives a semi-fictional account of the breaking of the German code at Bletchely park during World War II?

A: Enigma

Q: Of the following three things, only one is something you can currently do on the Internet. Which is the genuine article? 1) Buy an online lottery ticket in Liechtenstein; 2) confess your sins and be absolved on www.catholic.net; or 3) look inside someone's stomach in real time?

Q: Buy a Lottery ticket in Liechtenstein

Q: Windows 95 was code-named Chicago. What is the Microsoft internal code-name for the next version of Windows?

A: "Nashville" (PC Magazine, Michael J. Miller, 10/24/95, p.75-76; cited in <http://renoir.csc.vill.edu/acm/trivia/windows.html>, an ACM student site with interesting trivia)

Q: What is the codename for the successor to Nashville, due out at the end of the century?

A: "Memphis" (same source as above)

Q: What was the code name for the twelve engineers who designed the first IBM PC?

A: The Dirty Dozen. (from web site <http://www.islandnet.com/~kpolsson/comphist.htm>)

Q: According to Nielson Media Research's Internet survey released this week, what percentage of Internet users are women, within 10%?

A: 35% (NYT, 10/30/95, p. D5)

Q: Fifty years ago the ENIAC computer was given a complicated ballistics problem to solve. How many IBM cards were needed to input the initial conditions? 10,000, 100,000, or 1,000,000?

A: 1,000,000 ("From ENIAC To UNIVAC" by Stern, p. 63)

Q: According to the Webcrawler, what is the most visited site on the Internet this week? Is it Yahoo, Microsoft Corporation, or the White House?

A: Yahoo

Q: Microsoft's Gates and Allen licensed BASIC for the MITS Altair. What does MITS stand for?

A: Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems (CW 10/16, 1995)

Q: What Cambridge-based company marketed the early PC game Zork?

A: Infocom (personal knowledge of CM)

Q: In what year did Microsoft's revenue surpass one billion dollars?

A: 1990 .. (CW 10/16,95 -- GB)

Q: An early homebrew pioneer designed the Osborne 1 "luggable" computer. Was it

Don Lancaster

Steve Wozniak

Lee Felsenstien or

Bob Frankston?

A: Lee Felsentein. (in several sources -- GB)

Q: What judged ruled in the 1993 Apple vs. Microsoft and HP case?

A: Judge Vaught R. Walker (CW 10/16)

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1997 Computer Bowl

Q: According to humorist Dave Barry, who really runs the Internet: is it the Mafia, the FBI, or a thirteen year old named Jason?

A: A thirteen year old named Jason

[source: Yahoo magazine, Oct. 96, p. 39]

Q: In 1990, famed Computer Educator Donald Knuth gave up something, and as a result is now "a happy man." Did he give up programming, using email, or playing the organ?

A: Using email

[source: Knuth's home page at <http://www-cs.staff.stanford.edu/~knuth/email.html>]

Q: Last month in San Jose, the Association for Computing held ACM97, a conference about the next fifty years of computing. During the conference, the attendees were asked if they thought that fifty years from today we would still have to go to bars to find a date. How many said Yes? 35%, 45%, or 55%

A: 55%

[CM; personal knowledge]

Q: The following three U.S. counties have the highest numbers of Internet hosts in the country. The three are Fairfax County, Virginia, Santa Clara County, California, and Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Which is number one?

A: Santa Clara

[source: NYT "Sizing Up The Internet As An Engine of Development" by Steve Lohr]

Q: According to Computer Retail Week, the number one computer retailer by sales in 1996 was CompUSA. Who was number two? Office Depot, Computer City Supercenters, or Best Buy?

A: Best Buy

[source: 1997 Hoover's Guide to Computer Companies, p. 24]

Q: Among Internet sites, the "com" domain is the largest - most commercial sites, like www.microsoft.com, for example, use the "com" extension. What's the next most popular domain type; is it .gov, .edu, or .org?

A: .edu, with over 1.4 million names, compared to the over 2.4 million .com's.

[source: 1997 World Almanac, p. 207]

Q: According to Gordon Moore, was the estimated number of transistors manufactured worldwide in 1995 roughly equal to 1) the number of buildings in the US; 2) the number of atoms in a microgram of gold; or 3) the number of raindrops that fell on California in 1995?

A: The number of raindrops

[Source: quoted in "The Microprocessor: A Biography, by M. Malone, p. 286]

Q: According to the 1997 World Almanac, what is the average number of words on a web page: 500, 600, or 750?

A: 500

[1997 World Almanac, p. 207]

Q: Andy Herzfeld developed a famous early multitasking program for the Macintosh. What was it called?

A: Switcher

[source: Steve Golson]

Q: Over twenty five years ago the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or ARPA for short, creating the ARPANET, laying the groundwork for what was to become the Internet. Who was president when ARPA was founded? Eisenhower, Johnson, or Nixon?

A: Eisenhower (ARPA was founded in 1958).

[source: Wired Style, p. 19]

Q: Which of the following magazines does NOT have a web site: Newsweek, US News & World Report, or MIT Technology Review?

A: Newsweek

Q: In what year did Claude Shannon first show that electronic switching circuits can perform logical operations? 1932, 1936, or 1938?

A: 1938

[Source: Dodd's The Technology of Information, p. 13]

Q: The book "The Rules of the Net" calls it "the Swiss army knife of the net." What are they talking about? UNIX, Lynx, or the Netscape browser?

A: UNIX

[Wired Style, p. 57]

*Q: According to the Los Angeles Times which of the following is NOT a code name for Java-related software: Espresso, English Breakfast, or Latte?

A: English Breakfast

[Source: Los Angeles Times, Friday April 26, 1996, Orange County Edition, Business, Page 7]

*Q: What is the former name of Time Warner Interactive?

A: Atari Games

*Q: In 1995 courts ordered the first-ever legal wiretap of a University computer network to let federal agents track down an attempted break-in to the system. Which network was it?

A: Harvard University. A student in Argentina was apprehended.

[Source: Boston Globe, 3/30/96, p.1]

*Q: The phrase "Hi-ho! Yow! I'm surfing Arpanet" is actually an anagram for a well-known hi-tech phrase. Is the phrase "Information Superhighway," "The Internet Yellow Pages," or "Netscape Internet Navigator?"

A: "Information Superhighway"

[Source:

http://www.eff.org/pub/Net_culture/Folklore/Humor/anagrams_for_iway.topten]

*Q: How many vacuum tubes did the ENIAC computer have: 18,000; 25,000; Or 50,000?

A: 18,000

[Source: Dodd, p.13]

Q: Evelyn Berizen started a pioneering word processing company in the late

1960s. What was her company called? Electric Pencil, Redactron, or Reading Advantage?

A: Redactron. The word processing system used cassette tape drives to store and edit documents.

ROUND 2

Q: The Whirlwind computer was an innovative real-time computer developed at Lincoln Labs in the 1950s. Its staff were fond of hanging unusual objects on the computer. Which of the following was NOT hanging on the front of the Whirlwind: A shrunken head, a hand grenade, or a werewolf mask?

A: A werewolf mask

[source: picture following page 160 of "Where Wizards Stay Up Late" by Hafner and Lyon]

Q: What two companies did Jim Clark found?

A: Silicon Graphics, Inc. and Netscape Communications, Corp.

[source: US News & World Report, 12/9/97, p. 69]

Q: IBM's early rally song is based on a tune written by what composer: Giannini, Verdi, or Puccini?

A. Vittorio Giannini; the song is "Ever Onward."

Q: According to the Gartner Group, earlier this year a state correctional facility accidentally released some inmates before their sentences were up because of a computer glitch. The glitch was caused by a famous problem that the computer industry is currently grappling with. What is the problem called?

A: The "Y2K," or "Year Two Thousand," problem. The prison sentences in question all terminated in the twenty-first century, but the computer thought the sentences had already been completed at the beginning of THIS century.

[source: US News & World Report, 11/17/97, p. 54]

Q: By all accounts, the "Y2K" problem will cost the computer industry an enormous amount of money. According to the Gartner Group, will it cost \$600 billion, \$900 billion, or \$1.5 trillion dollars?

A: \$600 billion

[source: US News & World Report, 11/17/97, p. 54]

Q: Doug Engelbart is working on a new project with Sun Microsystems and Netscape. Is he working on A) augmenting the collective IQ of organizations; B) inventing a three-dimensional mouse; or C) designing a state-of-the-art video game?

A: Augmenting the collective IQ of organizations. Doug Engelbart, of course, is best known for having invented the mouse.

[source: US News & World Report, 5/20/96, p. 47]

Q: In 1996, shortly before he passed away, supercomputer pioneer Seymour Cray started a new company. Was it called SRC Computers, Inc., Benchmark Electronics, or Platinum Technology?

A: SRC Computers, Inc.

[source: Gazette-Telegraph, 1/13/96, p. F1]

Q: The US has more computers than any nation on earth. Japan is number two.

Does the US have three times as many computers as Japan, four times as many, or five times as many?

A: Over five times as many

[source: 8th Annual Computer Industry Almanac, p. 482]

Q: Among all computer companies in 1996, Netscape was number two in percent employee growth, followed by Infoseek. According to Hoover's Guide, who was number one? Softnet Systems, Inc.; Softbank Corp.; or Physician Computer Network?

A: Softnet Systems, Inc.

[source: Hoover's Guide, 2nd Edition, p. 16]

Q: Who has an operating system named after him? Ross Dos, Dick Pick, or Ay-biem Oh-estu?

A: Dick Pick

[source: Pick operating system, still used by Sequoia and Vmark;
<http://www.keyinfosys.com/pickcns1.htm>]

Q: ADSL is a promising new alternative to cable modems, satellite dishes, and ISDN phones. Currently in limited testing, it lets you transmit data at 6 megabits per second over regular phone lines. What does ADSL stand for?

A: Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line.

[source: Boston Globe, 4/3/97, p. D1]

Q: The World Wide Web was born in 1989 at CERN in Switzerland. What is the main type of research done at CERN?

A: Nuclear research (or particle physics)

[source: Wired Style, p. 17]

Q: What book begins with the following sentence; "This is a book about what happens to people when they are overwhelmed by change." Is it: "Future Shock," "Being Digital," or "The Rules of the Net"?

A: Future Shock

[Wired Style, p. 29]

Q: What does the "360" signify in the name of the IBM 360 mainframe?

A: 360 degrees of a circle, or the points of a compass

[source: "IBM's 360 and Early 370 Systems," by Pugh et al, p. 167]

Q: Name either of the two executive producers of the 1995 computer-animated movie, Toy Story.

A: Edwin Catmull and Steve Jobs

[source: Internet movie database (
<http://us.imdb.com/cache/title-exact/97298>)]

Q: What was the serial number of the first Apple II computer? 0001, 2001, or 1984?

A: 2001

[source: Bob Juch, personal knowledge; he was with Apple at the time;
The_Wizard@Cyber-Wizard.Com]

Q: Video games represent the second most popular use for home computers. What is the number one use?

A: word processing

[source: US News & World Report, 5/20/96, p. 45]

*Q: Who wrote the book "Life on the Screen?": Brenda Laurel, Sherry Turkle, or Esther Dyson?

A: Sherry Turkle

[CM personal knowledge - I have copy of book and magazine]

*Q: Modern desktop computers commonly use the PCI bus to let users add additional hardware devices to their computers. In the PCI local bus, what does PCI stand for?

A: peripheral component interconnect

[Source: Steve Golson]

Q: What computer company did Lore Harp and Carole Ely found in 1976? Was it Vector Graphics, Computronics, or Cabletron?

A: Vector Graphics.

(The company first sold memory boards for S-100 bus computers, introduced the Vector Graphic I system a year later, and the system B in 1979 - EG)

[Source: <http://www.umcs.maine.edu/~curtis/comphist.html>])

ROUND 3

Q: Fortune magazine called it "the most crucial and portentous - as well as perhaps the most risky - business judgment of recent times." Were they talking about the development of A) the IBM 360 mainframe computer; B) the IBM PC; or C) the Internet?

A: The IBM 360 mainframe computer

[source: Boston Globe]

Q: Who said "The future has arrived; it's just not uniformly distributed." Was it Bruce Sterling, William Gibson, or John Brunner?

A: Cyberpunk novelist William Gibson

[source: quoted in US News & World Report, 5/27/96, p. 62]

Q: Of the following three geographical areas, which does NOT have a ComputerWorld Online edition devoted to it? Chile, Ecuador, or the South Pole?

A: Ecuador

[source: IDG web site; the Chile site is at <http://www.cworld.cl/>; the South pole site is at <http://antarctica.computerworld.com/>]

Q: What famous comedian gave the keynote address earlier this month at Sun's JavaOne development conference? Dana Carvey, Jay Leno, or Robin Williams?

A: Dana Carvey

[source: <http://www5.zdnet.com/zdnn/content/zdnn/0403/zdnn0007.html>]

Q: Although it has sold over 40 million copies worth over 800 million dollars, its Russian inventor, Alexey Pajitnov, has not made a single cent from the profits. What piece of software did he invent?

A: Tetris, the computer video game with the falling geometric shapes. Soviet-era licensing agreements were to blame for his lack of royalties.

[source: US News & World Report, 6/10/96, p. 56]

Q: What law states that the power of a network increases with the square of its nodes"? Is it Moore's Law, Parkinson's law, or Metcalfe's law?

A: Metcalfe's Law.

[Source: US News & World Report, 5/27/96, p.63]

Q: What is the topic of the book, "Where Wizards Stay Up Late," by Katie Hafner and Matthew Lyon? Is it a history of hackers; a history of the Internet, or a history of mainframes?

A: A history of the Internet

Q: The three founders of Compaq all came from what company?

A: Texas Instruments

[source: "Revenge of the Nerds" TV program, PBS]

Q: Which web site got the most number of hits during the 1996 presidential elections? MSNBC, the CNN/Time site, or the Playboy Site?

A: CNN/Time, with over 50 million hits (compared with 18 million hits when the US attacked Iraq)

[source: USA Today, Nov. 6, 96, p. 3A]

Q: Silicon Graphics' workstations were used to create the special effects in such blockbuster movies as Jurassic Park and Forest Gump. What percentage of the company's sales are to the entertainment industry? 15%, 25%, or 35%?

A: They have never exceeded 15%

[source: US News & World Report, 11/11/96, p. 60]

Q: What does a majordomo program do?

A: It manages mail lists, letting people subscribe and unsubscribe.

[source: Wired Style, p. 51]

Q: Mark C. Stephens is better known by what alter ego?

A: Robert X. Cringley, the host of "Revenge of the Nerds" and one of several authors of a popular InfoWorld gossip column who have used the nom de plume in the past.

[source; WSJ, 6/14/96, p. 1]

Q: Disney recently bought a controlling interest in an Internet publisher. Who is it?

A: Starwave

[source: NYT, 4/4/97, p. C2]

Q: Before faxes were faxes, they were called by the brand name of the sending and receiving device. Name this 1970's era product OR the company that developed it.

A: QWP (pronounced quip), made by Exxon Data Systems of Stamford, Connecticut.

(The device forced you to roll a sheet of paper around a drum, dial the phone number of the receiving machine, and put the phone's earpiece into an acoustical coupler. - EG)

*Q: What's the Portuguese word for byte? Byte; bitta, or bayta?

A : byte

[Source: Elsevier Dictionary]

*Q: George Philbrick was a pioneer in analog computing. During the 1930's, what electronic device did he develop that was key to the development of analog computers: the flip flop, the multivibrator, or the operational amplifier?

A: The operational amplifier (Op amp is also an acceptable answer)

[Source: Ralston, op cit, p. 43, 3rd ed.)

*Q: How much profit did Apple computer make in its first fiscal year?
\$42,000; \$62,000; or \$100?

A: \$42,000

[Source, Ralston, op cit, p. 69)

Q; What does "EPIC" stand for?

A: The Electronic Privacy Information Center.

[source: Wired Style, p. 21]

Q: What company released a shareware version of "Doom" over the Internet in 1993?

A: id Software

[source: Wired Style, p. 20]

Q. What company did Max Palevsky found in the 1960's?

A. Scientific Data Systems, which he sold to Xerox in 1969.

ROUND 4

Q: Who said "It staggers me that people have actually put up with HTML. It was never supposed to be something that you would see, but something produced by an editor program." Was it Vint Cerf, Tim Berners-Lee, or Jim Clark?

A: Tim Berners-Lee.

[source: MIT Technology Review, 6/96, p. 37]

Q: Who has the biggest share of the \$200-600 pocket electronic organizer market: Is it Apple, HP, Sharp, or Psion?

A: Psion

[Source, NYT, 04/29/96]

Q: Which grew faster in 1996: the number of Internet service providers, the number of bagel shops, or the number of pager services?

A: Internet service providers (9,475% growth versus 30% for bagel shops and 31% for pager services)

[source: American Business Information, Inc. survey, quoted in Boston Globe, 2/27/97, p. E4]

Q: Before the legendary computer pioneer Grace Murray Hopper began her Navy career, she taught math at two colleges. Name either one.

A. Vassar and Barnard.

Q: Last year AOL caused some controversy when they played an April fool's joke online. What was the joke?

A: They announced the apparent signs of life on Jupiter

[Source, Globe, 4/2/96, p. 41]

Q: Each Year ComputerWorld publishes their "Premier 100" list of the companies they judge to be the most effective at managing information. Who was number one last year? Cisco Systems, Intel, or Gateway 2000?

A: Cisco Systems

[source: 8th Annual Computer Industry Almanac, p.62]

Q: According to Forbes, of the world's ten richest billionaires who are involved with the computer or electronics industries, how many are from the U.S.? 4, 6, or 8?

A: Four -- Gates, Allen, Ellison, Balmer (three of whom are from Microsoft)

(The top ten are: 1) Bill Gates; 2) Paul Allen, both of Microsoft; 3) Kenneth Thompson, Thompson Corp., media, online services (Canada); 4) Carlos Helu, Telefonos de Mexico, Prodigy (Mexico); 5) Walter Haefner, Computer Associates (Switzerland); 6) Larry Ellison, Oracle (U.S.); 7) Lee Kun-Hee, Samsung (Korea); 8) Masayoshi Son, Sofbank, COMDEX (Japan); 9) Dhanin Chearavanont, TelecomAsia 9Thailand) ; 10) Steve Baumer, Microsoft. (U.S.))

[source: Forbes, July 15, 1996, quoted in Computer Almanac, p. 479]

Q: Who has the most computers: China, Russia, Mexico, or Brazil?

A: China, followed by Russia, Mexico, and Brazil

[source: Almanac, p. 482]

Q: Last Year's SoftLetter 100 list put Microsoft at the top of the list of personal computer software companies by revenue. Novell was number two. Who was number three? Intuit, AutoDesk, or Adobe?

A: Adobe

[source: 8th Annual Computer Industry Almanac, p. 45]

Q: Who built the "Naked Mini?" Was it Data General, Computer Automation, or Wang?

A: Computer Automation. It got its name because it was sold stripped down, with no frills.

*Q: How much did IBM pay for Lotus, to the nearest ? Billion?

A: \$3.3 Billion

[Source: NPR Weekend edition, 12-30-1995]

*Q: Of the following three nations, which has NOT put a computer on any of its postal stamps: Angola, the Ivory Coast, or Great Britain?

A: Angola

[Source, Ralston, p. cp-12, 3rd ed.]

Q: Michael and Charity Cheiky started an early personal computing company in the 1970's. Was that company MITS, Sol, or Ohio Scientific?

A: Ohio Scientific, in Hiram, Ohio. They manufactured the Challenger series of computers.

Q: The 36-pin plug on the back of PCs used to be known by the name of the company that developed the standard. What was that company?

A: Centronics Data Computer, which made high speed printers that plugged into the 36-pin Centronics-compatible plug.

Q: For many years, one of the most visible attractions at the Joint Computer Conferences was a giant inflated frog that sat on top of a computer company's booth. What was the company?

A: Charles River Data Systems

*Q: Three people intimately associated with the ENIAC were J. Presper Eckert, John Mauchly, and Herman Goldstine. Which one did his doctoral thesis on the topic of carbon monoxide?

A: John Mauchly

[Source, Annals of the history of computing, vol. 18, #1, p. 37]

Q: When Alliant Computer was first formed, it had a different name. What was it?

A: Data Flow, founded in the early 1980s

*Q: VRML is a Web protocol for displaying 3-D objects and spaces. Who

invented it? Eric Schmidt, Ted Nelson, or Mark Pesce?

A: Mark Pesce

[Source, BW, 12/4/95, p. 83]

Q: What company introduced the so-called "Everything" box, which was an intelligent terminal?

A: Viatron

Q: A pioneer workstation company was a spinoff of Carnegie-Mellon University, and it offered a product called PERC. What the company Centronics, Three Rivers Computing, or WYSE?

A: Three Rivers Computing.

BONUS ROUND #1

This round is about writing style in the digital age, and involves advice from Wired Magazine's new Style Guide called "Wired Style:"

Q: If a URL comes at the end of a sentence, should you A) Add a period; B) NOT add a period; C) add a semicolon or asterisk.

A: Add a period

[source: Wired Style, p. 149]

Q: What does Wired prefer to call the plural of that small, rolling, pointing device invented by Douglas Engelbart in 1964?

A: mouses

[source; Wired Style, p. 157]

Q: How do you handle a long URL that won't fit on a line? A) break it by adding a hyphen somewhere in the URL; B) break it without adding a hyphen; C) never break it; put it somewhere else on the page.

A: Break it without a hyphen

*BONUS ROUND #2

*This bonus round is all about the National Geographic Magazine. It's in three parts.

1) Some time back the National Geographic magazine pictured Bill Gates sitting on top of something. What was he sitting on?

A: A tall stack of paper

2) In the November, 1970 issue of the National Geographic an article called "Behold the Computer Revolution" pictured several famous computer people. Of the following four people, who didn't make it into the article: H. Ross Perot, Thomas J. Watson, Jr., John Kemeny, or John Mauchly?

A: John Mauchly

3) In the same article from 1970, someone is quoted as saying "If computers can match boys and girls for college dates, they can match job-seeking men for man-seeking jobs." Who said it? Richard Nixon, Jimmy Hoffa, or Ted Kennedy?

A: Richard Nixon

[Source: National Geographic]

BONUS ROUND #3:

This bonus round is about our news-gathering habits.

Q: If you use online services to catch up on the news, are you more apt to read a newspaper regularly, less apt, or is it about the same?

A: More apt. According to a recent Pew Research study, 55% of online users read newspapers regularly, versus 50% for the general public.

Q: If you use online services to catch up on the news, are you more apt to watch TV news regularly, less apt, or is it about the same?

A: About the same (though we will accept "more"). 61% of online users watch TV news regularly, versus 59 % for the general public.

Q: Finally, if you use online services to catch up on the news, are you more apt to listen to radio news regularly, less apt, or is it about the same?

A: More apt: 52% of online users listen to radio news regularly, versus 44 % for the general public.

[source: Pew Research survey, reported in AP story in Globe, 12/16/96, p. A4]

BONUS ROUND #4:

This bonus round is about the most frequently-occurring words on the Internet.

Q: The most common word or character string on the Internet is "the," followed by "of," "and," "to," "a," and "in." What comes next? Is it "html," "http," or "www"?

A: html ("http" is number 10, on the list, and "www" is number 15.

Q: The first forty of the most frequently occurring words on the Internet are proper nouns, such as "you," prepositions, or small connecting words such as "the" and "that." The first common noun to appear is at number forty two in the list. What is it? "university," "information," or "website"?

A: "information"

Q: The most frequently-occurring company name or trademark on the World Wide Web is not Netscape or Microsoft. Is it DEC, IBM, or NASA?

A: IBM, which is number 447 in the list; DEC is second at number 462; NASA is a distant third at number 667.

[source: "The Alta Vista Search Revolution," by Seltzer et al, p. 240.]